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species, but since the subspecies' validity has not yet been determined I have not listed it as such.

**Regulus calendula calendula.** RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.— This is another species that remained exceptionally late in the spring of 1917. I observed it up to May 18, securing a specimen on the last date.

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## NOTES ON THE NESTING BIRDS OF WAHPETON, NORTH DAKOTA.

BY J. K. JENSEN.

THE region covered by the following notes is a small part of Richland County, forming a quarter of a circle with a radius of three miles, west and north of Wahpeton, with the Indian School as a center. The ground covered takes in the North Dakota side of the Red River, where a little timber is to be found. The rest consists mostly of cultivated fields, some prairie and a little swampy or wet ground and a few groves around the farm buildings.

This list includes, with one or two exceptions, only birds I actually found nesting in 1917, and does not profess to be complete.

**Botaurus lentiginosus.** BITTERN.— Very common as a nesting bird. On June 6 I found a nest in a clover-field less than a thousand feet north of the Indian School. The Bittern would generally leave the nest when I was about ten feet away. The nest consisted of a handful of dry grass, and contained a set of four fresh eggs.

**Zenaidura macroura carolinensis.** MOURNING DOVE.— Very common. Nests and eggs were found from May 1 to September 1 both in trees and on the ground. Near the Indian School I found a nest, which first served as home for the White-rumped Shrike, later a pair of Brown Thrashers took possession and laid a set of five eggs and a Cowbird placed one of her eggs in the nest. About August 1, I again found the nest occupied, this time by a Mourning Dove incubating two eggs.

**Oxyechus vociferus.** KILLDEER.— The Killdeer is very common in this part of North Dakota, but I only located one nest. This was placed about a hundred feet west of the Indian School in a little garden plot. The nest was a little hollow in the ground, lined with a few dry weedstalks, and on May 11 it contained four fresh eggs.

**Tympanuchus americanus.** PRAIRIE HEN.—I only found one nest of this species. On June 3 it contained eleven nearly fresh eggs, and was made of dry grass and a few feathers of the owner. It was quite open and easy to locate.

**Circus hudsonius.** MARSH HAWK.—Very common and in evidence from morning to night. On prairie land west of the city I found several nests, sometimes only a few hundred feet apart. The nests were quite well made of grass and weeds, generally raised one or two inches above the ground. Most of them contained five eggs. One nest I located on May 27 was raised thirteen inches above the level of the prairie and could be seen from quite a distance. It contained a set of seven eggs. Another found June 3 held a set of five fresh eggs, some of which were distinctly marked with brown.

**Accipiter cooperi.** COOPER'S HAWK.—Nests quite commonly in the timber along the river and even in the small artificial groves near the farms. On May 20 I located two nests with four and five eggs respectively. Both were typical and both were placed in elm trees less than twenty feet from the ground.

**Buteo borealis krideri.** KRIDER'S HAWK.—On May 6 I collected a set of two fresh eggs from a nest placed in an elm tree near the river. The nest was up about forty feet. The eggs are white, boldly marked with light brown spots.

**Falco sparverius sparverius.** SPARROW HAWK.—This pretty little hawk seems to be quite common wherever there is an opportunity to find a suitable nesting site. On April 15 a pair were investigating some martin boxes I had set up in the spring of 1916. I then made two boxes more suitable for the hawks, and both were accepted. One placed near the Indian School contained on May 14 a set of five fresh eggs, and the other placed on a little island in the river had a set of five on May 23.

**Asio wilsonianus.** LONG-EARED OWL.—On May 20 I discovered an owl of this species in an old crow's nest in a little grove about three miles northwest of the city. I found five heavily incubated eggs in the nest. The owl stayed on the nest until I was only a few feet below it.

**Asio accipitrinus.** SHORT-EARED OWL.—Walking across a last year's wheat field on May 20, I flushed one of these owls from a nest with seven almost fresh eggs. On June 1 I found another nest containing four fresh eggs, but a horse had stepped in the nest and broken them. A few days later I found another nest in the same field which contained two fresh eggs, but these were also destroyed.

**Otus asio asio.** SCREECH OWL.—This little owl seems to be very common, and I have seen several, mostly on the little island in the river. On May 27 I found a Flicker nesting in a hole in a dead stump and under the tree were the shells of several eggs of the Screech Owl. A few days before I had found a dead Screech Owl near the same spot.

**Ceryle alcyon alcyon.** BELTED KINGFISHER.—Very common along the river, and one or more nest holes can be seen in almost every steep bank on both the North Dakota and Minnesota side.

**Melanerpes erythrocephalus.** RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—Fairly common. On June 11 a nest with six fresh eggs was found in a dead stump on the island. Nest hole about fifteen feet from the ground.

**Colaptes auratus luteus.** FLICKER.—Very common. One of my nesting boxes was occupied and a set of seven eggs laid. Some boys broke off the top of the box, but the Flicker hatched the eggs and raised the young ones just as if nothing had happened.

**Chætura pelagica.** CHIMNEY SWIFT.—Very common and I find them nesting in several chimneys at the Indian School.

**Archilochus colubris.** RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—I have seen several Hummingbirds in this locality, and July 3 I collected a nest with two fresh eggs about a mile and a half north of Wahpeton, about fifty feet from the river. The nest was placed about twenty feet up in an elm and twelve feet out on a slender limb. June 28 I saw the female building, bringing nesting material every few minutes, and on July 1 the nest was finished and one egg laid.

**Tyrannus tyrannus.** KINGBIRD.—Very common. Fresh eggs can be found in the last part of June. Sets generally consist of three to four eggs, and nests are placed from two to sixty feet from the ground. On June 25 I found a nest in which were three eggs of the Kingbird and two Cowbird's eggs.

**Tyrannus verticalis.** ARKANSAS KINGBIRD.—Very common. All the nests found were placed in the lower dead branches of Cottonwoods between ten and thirty feet up. In a grove of about an acre I found seven nests with sets of three to four eggs. I never saw the nest placed on the ground but as I very often met both this and the former species on the prairie far from trees and saw them there in pairs for weeks I feel convinced that they either nest on the ground or in weeds.

**Myiarchus crinitus.** CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—On July 1 near the river I noticed a Crested Flycatcher entering a Flicker's hole with nesting material. The nesting hole was in a dead stump thirty feet from the ground. I did not have an opportunity later to investigate the nest.

**Myiochanes virens.** WOOD PEWEE.—Very common along the river.

**Empidonax minimus.** LEAST FLYCATCHER.—Very common. I found several nests; each containing four eggs and sometimes a Cowbird's egg.

**Cyanocitta cristata cristata.** BLUE JAY.—Not very common. A few pairs nest in the timber along the river.

**Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos.** CROW.—Fairly common. A set of six fresh eggs was collected from a nest placed in an elm on the island in the river on April 23, and May 20 a nest with five nearly full grown young was located in a small grove about three miles northwest of the Indian School.

**Dolichonyx oryzivorus.** BOBOLINK.—Very common. These birds nest in the cultivated grass and cloverfields. I have never found them nesting on the prairies.

**Molothrus ater ater.** COWBIRD.—Very common. I found Cowbirds' eggs in the nests of Brown Thrasher, Robin, Kingbird, Least Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Goldfinch.

**Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus.** RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—Common. The Red-wing nests in all low, damp places with tall grass or weeds. I have several times found two or three Cowbirds' eggs in the nest of this Blackbird.

**Sturnella neglecta.** WESTERN MEADOWLARK.—Very common. The Meadowlark arrives in the last week of March, and nests may be found by May 1. Sets of four to six eggs are common but I have seen as few as two in a set. The Meadowlark is much more common in the vicinity of buildings than in the open.

**Icterus galbula.** BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—Fairly common. Nests may be found about the middle of June in tall cottonwoods.

**Euphagus cyanocephalus.** BREWER'S BLACKBIRD.—A colony of about ten pairs was located in a plowed field near the Indian School. The nests contained five eggs each.

**Quiscalus quiscula æneus.** BRONZED GRACKLE.—Common. These noisy birds were nesting in the shade trees in the city streets. A colony of fifteen nests was found in a small grove of wild plums. On May 17 the nests contained five to six fresh eggs.

**Astragalinus tristis tristis.** GOLDFINCH.—Common. Nests were usually found in small shade trees. August 6 I located a nest in a small elm, with a set of four fresh Goldfinch eggs and one Cowbird's egg.

**Passer domesticus.** ENGLISH SPARROW.—Very common. I found the English Sparrow nesting both in trees and buildings, wherever there was an opportunity to place a nest.

**Poecetes gramineus gramineus.** VESPER SPARROW.—In a wild plum thicket near the river I noticed a pair of this species feeding young.

**Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus.** GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.—Common in all grass fields. On June 3 I located a partly arched over nest containing five fresh eggs of this species in an alfalfa field.

**Passerherbulus lecontei.** LECONTE'S SPARROW.—Common. I was only fortunate enough to find one nest of this little sparrow. It was placed in dry grass on the prairie. A set of four eggs was collected on May 27.

**Spizella passerina passerina.** CHIPPING SPARROW.—One nest of this species was found in a shade tree on 8th Street. I did not look into the nest, but the bird was incubating.

**Spizella pallida.** CLAY-COLORED SPARROW.—I saw a pair of these birds feeding young near the State Science School.

**Spizella pusilla (arenacea?).** FIELD SPARROW.—Fairly common. Nesting in the brushwood along the river.

**Melospiza melodia melodia.** SONG SPARROW.—Have seen several of these sparrows, but only located one nest. This was on June 30 and it contained five young sparrows and two addled Cowbird's eggs.

**Zamelodia ludoviciana.** ROSE-BREADED GROSBK.— Fairly common. On June 11 I found a nest with three eggs of this species and one Cowbird's egg. June 27 another nest was located containing three heavily incubated eggs, and June 28 one more nest, with three newly hatched young. All were near the river.

**Spiza americana.** DICKCISSEL.— I have only seen one pair of these birds, and I did not locate a nest, but for about two weeks in June, the male could always be seen on top of bushes or weeds near the edge of an alfalfa field near the river. The alfalfa was then cut, and I did not see the birds again.

**Progne subis subis.** PURPLE MARTIN.— Very common. The Purple Martin was nesting all over the city. At the Indian School I set up a number of bird-boxes in which seven pairs were nesting. In June sets of four or five eggs were laid, but very few young ones were raised, as the English Sparrows were continually fighting the Martins and would go into the boxes and destroy the eggs.

**Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons.** CLIFF SWALLOW.— Common. I located a colony of twenty-five nests on a barn near the Indian School. On June 26 most of them had young.

**Hirundo erythrogastra.** BARN SWALLOW.— Very common. One pair were incubating a set of five eggs in a garage at the Indian School, when the building was lifted on rollers and carried about one hundred and fifty feet and turned, so the door, which had been facing east now is toward the south. In spite of all this disturbance the Swallows hatched their eggs and reared their young ones.

**Riparia riparia.** BANK SWALLOW.— Very common. I found them nesting in large numbers in the river banks. In one colony near the Indian School I counted more than five hundred nests.

**Stelgidopteryx serripennis.** ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.— Some of this species were nesting in the river banks, but not in such numbers as the Bank Swallow. I only located two nests, one of which contained a set of five heavily incubated eggs on June 26.

**Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides.** WHITE-RUMPED SHRIKE.— One nest of this species was located in a cottonwood about twelve feet from the ground, and on April 23 a set of six fresh eggs was collected. About two weeks later the birds were again incubating a set of six eggs.

**Vireosylva olivacea.** RED-EYED VIREO.— Fairly common in the shrubbery and timber along the river.

**Dendroica aestiva aestiva.** YELLOW WARBLER.— Very common. Nesting wherever a few bushes were to be found. In about one half of the nests located, were deposited eggs of the Cowbird. Quite often the warblers would build a new nest on top of one in which a Cowbird's egg had been laid. (See 'The Auk,' October, 1916).

**Dumetella carolinensis.** CATBIRD.— Nests were common along the river and a few were found in the groves around the farm buildings. Sets of five eggs are common in this locality.

**Toxostoma rufum.** BROWN THRASHER.—Common. Nesting from one to twenty-five feet from the ground. Sets of four and five eggs were common, and at times one or two Cowbird's eggs were placed in a nest.

**Troglodytes ædon parkmani.** WESTERN HOUSE WREN.—Very common. I set up ten wren boxes, and eight were occupied. Fresh sets of six and seven eggs were found from June 10 to July 1. I made the boxes with different sized entrance holes —  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches — and I noticed that the boxes with the largest holes were occupied first.

**Planesticus migratorius migratorius.** ROBIN.—Very common. Robins were found nesting both in trees and on buildings. One nest was placed on a fire escape at the Indian School. Some of the nests contained a Cowbird's egg.

**Sialia sialis sialis.** BLUEBIRD.—Not very common. The Bluebirds here seem to be nesting very late. July 22 a set of four eggs was found in one of my nesting boxes.

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## GENERAL NOTES.

***Larus nelsoni*, in Juvenal Plumage, from the Hawaiian Islands.**—Nelson's Gull, *Larus nelsoni* Henshaw, is one of the rarest of North American Laridæ, and its juvenal plumage is apparently undescribed. It was therefore with considerable interest that the writer discovered among the unidentified gulls in the United States National Museum a female specimen of *Larus nelsoni* in juvenal plumage, No. 169682, U. S. N. M., collected by Mr. H. W. Henshaw at Hilo on the Island of Hawaii, in the Hawaiian Islands, March 13, 1899. This record adds the species to the list of Hawaiian birds. A few notes on this individual may be acceptable in the present connection.

This Hawaiian Island individual is rather small, about the size of the smallest specimens of *Larus hyperboreus* in the United States National Museum collection, and measures as follows: wing, 400 mm.; tail, 155; exposed culmen, 55; tarsus, 66; middle toe without claw, 53. The colors of the soft parts, as indicated on the label, are: "bill black; legs and feet pinkish; eyes hazel."

The juvenal plumage of *Larus nelsoni*, which this specimen evidently represents, is much like the corresponding stage of *Larus hyperboreus*, from which it differs conspicuously in its wholly black or blackish bill (in which respect it agrees with the juvenal plumage of *Larus glaucescens*), since the bill in even the nestling of *Larus hyperboreus* is blackish only at the tip. In plumage it differs principally from *Larus hyperboreus* in its darker posterior lower parts; more extensively dusky ocular region; and, on the terminal portion of the outer webs of the first three or four